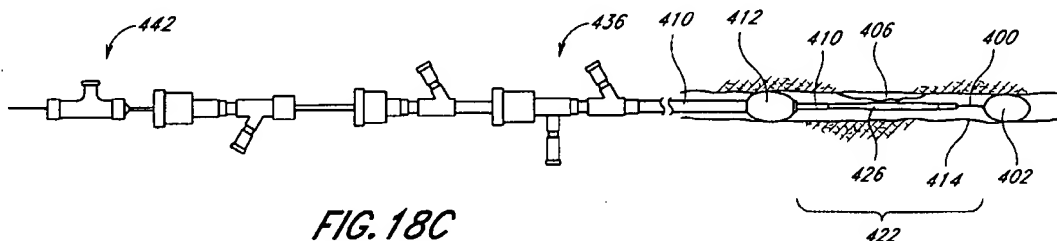


REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed March 22, 2007, is respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-19 remain pending. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at, e.g., Figs. 9A-C, and paragraphs [007] and [0176]. Therefore, this amendment was made without introducing new matter.

Art Rejections

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Zadno-Azizi et al. (USP 6,022,336). Claim 1 is now limited to the step of “*advancing a non-occlusive guidewire to a position distal the stenosis.*” Zadno-Azizi does not teach or suggest the step of advancing a non-occlusive guidewire to a position distal the stenosis. In contrast, as seen in Fig. 18C (reproduced below), Zadno-Azizi teaches to insert a guidewire having an occlusive device (inflatable balloon) and positioning the occlusive device distal the lesion.



(See Col. 20, lines 5-13 “The inner catheter, in this example, a guidewire 400, having an occlusive device 402, in this example an inflatable balloon, at its distal end 404 is next delivered through the main catheter 410. The occlusive device 402 is positioned just distal to the occlusion 406. The occlusive device is activated, i.e., the balloon 402 is inflated to create an isolated

chamber within the vessel which surrounds the occlusion.”) In fact, Zadno-Azizi requires the formation of a “treatment and containment chamber,” which provides a “working space 422 ... between the balloons 402, 412, so that therapeutic procedures can be undertaken to remove or reduce the occlusion 406 in the space between the balloons 422, within risk of unwanted particles or emboli escaping into the blood stream.” Col. 20, lines 19-26. Zadno-Azizi therefore teaches away from the claimed subject matter, which requires the step of “advancing a non-occlusive guidewire to a position distal the stenosis.”

Claim 1 is therefore patentably distinct from Zadno-Azizi. Claims 2-19 depend from claim 1 are thus patentably distinct for the same reasons applicable to claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Favorable action on the merits of the claims is therefore earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, please contact Applicant’s undersigned representative at (949) 760-9600. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-2862.

Respectfully submitted,
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